

of the State, and particularly to the people who live and work in that area, and therefore of significance to our whole economy. It merits your support. I am sure it will receive it.

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## ADDRESS, NURSES' COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

September 15, 1964

Dr. Elkins, Dean Gipe, members of the graduating class of practical nurses, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am highly honored, I assure you, to be here with you this afternoon at this commencement ceremony for the largest graduating class of practical nurses in the history of the School of Nursing of the University of Maryland. Since I have been Governor of the State, I have watched with great pride and satisfaction the growth and improvement of the University of Maryland, and it is always a pleasure to me to take part in its activities. To you young ladies who have completed the course in practical nursing which the University offers I extend my hearty congratulations and my sincere best wishes for happiness and success in the careers you have chosen.

The field of endeavor which you have selected is not only an interesting one but it is also a highly important one. You have been trained in one of the finest schools of nursing in the entire country and therefore you have the satisfaction of knowing you are well prepared to perform the important duties of a practical nurse. I have observed the continuing development of this School of Nursing, and I am intensely pleased that the University of Maryland has assumed the leadership in this State in giving recognition to the need for training practical nurses to rehabilitate patients with long-term and chronic diseases.

My concern with the problems of elderly people, and my efforts to develop a State program for the solution of these problems, I consider a high point of my Administration. The very first bill that I signed into law, at the 1959 session of the General Assembly, was a measure creating a State agency to coordinate the activities of various organizations which are working to enhance the lives of our older citizens. In my own lifetime, I have seen the world move forward from the horse and buggy to high-speed travel over land and in the air, and